

I am writing to protest Sinclair Broadcasting's reach into national election politics. It is absolutely shameful that a media conglomerate has the willingness and where-with-all to attempt to influence a national presidential election by airing propaganda disguised as "news." This is especially shameful in view of Sinclair's refusal to air the Nightline reading of names of soldiers who have died in Iraq. I believe the FCC has an obligation to address this travesty immediately.

In broader terms, Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.